



Communicator

Summer 2014

Field Day Review

And...

How Did We Do in 2014?

The Site

The Gear

The People

Media





The Communicator



**SURREY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

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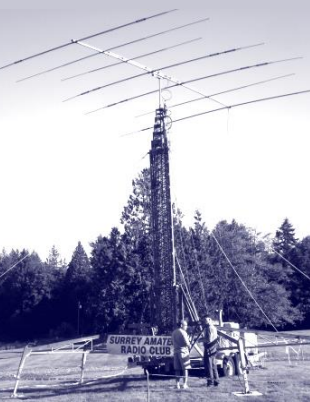
Nelson Eisel VE7NAE

VIA THE WEB

www.ve7sar.net

The SARC Communicator is published monthly except August for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.



Field Day 2014 Edition

This is a special edition of the Communicator dedicated to a review of our recent Field Day efforts.

We have contributions from many of the planners and participants and many photos. As in previous years, there will be a Field Day 2014 video that will be shown at a future meeting.

Fortunately this proved to be a good weekend weather-wise. We had a few sprinkles just as we started setup but we weren't drenched as we were in some previous years.

From an operating perspective it was a fabulous event and the result was good, particularly as we competed in 2A with one less transmitter this year.

An event this successful doesn't just happen, it takes a large amount of preparation and planning, almost a year to be exact, and there are too many people to thank individually in this column but special mention to Brett Garrett, VE7GM who once again took on the position of Chief

Planner and completed it in a very thorough and efficient manner. Thank you Brett!

Recognition as well to a corporate sponsor, specifically Super Save for the donation of Field Day portapotties. Please support Super Save if you require their services.

~ John Schouten VE7TI
Communicator Editor

Thanks to all our contributing photographers, Field Day 2014 and other SARC photos may be viewed on-line [here](#) or

tinyurl.com/SARC-FD14-Photos

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	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1 st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7KC Standby	Brett Garrett VE7GM
2 nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Standby	Jinty VA7JMR
3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Anton VE7SSD
4 th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX Standby	John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Elizabeth VE7ELA
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager VE7CZV@separs.net		

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2014-2015

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT

Brett Garrett VE7GM

SECRETARY

Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV
(also Net Manager)

TREASURER

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORS

John Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor
& Membership)

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Stan Williams VA7NF

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and EchoLink Node 1736

What Is and Why Do We Have Field Day?

"Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week", celebrated throughout North America, and locally through a civic proclamation by Surrey City Council. Self-sufficiency is the key.

Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and backyards around the country and operate without commercial infrastructure for the duration of the 24-hour exercise. Our slogan, "When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works" is more than just words to hams, as we prove we can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, Internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 38,000 amateur radio operators across the continent participated in last year's event.

It's more than that though. It's an opportunity to socialize, meet the public, and it is a contest with points for the most contacts and bonus activities.



ARRL Field Day

June 28-29, 2014

**Amateur Radio's most popular
on-air operating event!**

**Show your support for ARRL Field Day
with official merchandise. Shirts, hats,
pins, patches and mugs available now!**

How Did Field Day Start?

Steeped in tradition and mystery, today's Field Day evolved from humble beginnings in the Golden Age of Radio. Anything but stable, Field Day rules and practices have changed radically since the 1930s.

A one-column announcement in the June 1933 QST states that, for 27 hours starting the second Saturday in June at 4 PM local time (no daylight savings yet!), there would be an opportunity for "portables" to go into the field to contact as many stations as possible. Says F. E. Handy, W1BDI, in the announcement, "The real object of this contest is to test 'portables' wherever they may be available.... If successful, we want to make it an annual affair." To score the event, each QSO with fixed stations will count 1 point, contacts with other portables count 2 points, and DX contacts count 3 points. Multiply QSO points by the total number of ARRL sections, plus countries worked. No mention is made of a required exchange, which clearly must include an ARRL section!

Read the full text in a 1999 QST article available at URL:
<http://www.saraclub.net/Images/History%20of%20Field%20Day.pdf>



DOWN THE LOG...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday (Sept-Jun)
 1900 hrs local at the Emergency
 Management BC PREOC,
 14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 local
 Kalmar Family Restaurant at
 King George Blvd. & 81st Avenue
 Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs local
 on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs local
 on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Monthly Training

Fourth Tuesday of each month,
 1900-2100 local
 14923-64th Ave, next to Firehall
 #9, Surrey.

On the Web ve7sar.net

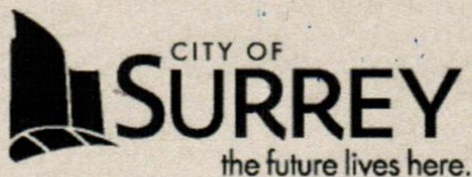
Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter [@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

SARC Photos Web Albums

or

tinyurl.com/SARCphoto



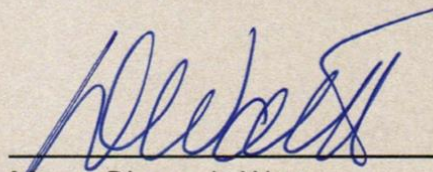
PROCLAMATION

Amateur Radio Week

June 22 - 28, 2014

- WHEREAS** Amateur Radio operators are celebrating over a century of the miracle of the human voice broadcast over the airwaves; and
- WHEREAS** Amateur Radio has provided a bridge between peoples, societies and countries by creating friendships and the sharing of ideas; and
- WHEREAS** the City of Surrey has several hundred licensed Amateur Radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing radio communications during emergencies and public service events; and
- WHEREAS** Amateur Radio operators in the City of Surrey donate their services wholly without compensation, in the interest of the citizens of the City as well as the province of BC and Canada; and
- WHEREAS** these Amateur Radio operators are on alert for any emergency local, regional or worldwide; and
- WHEREAS** the Amateur Radio Field Day exercise will take place on June 28 and 29, 2014 and this is a 24-hour emergency preparedness exercise and demonstration of Radio Amateurs' skills and readiness to provide self-supporting communications without the need for additional infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Dianne L. Watts, do hereby declare the week of June 22 - 28, 2014 as "Amateur Radio Week" in the City of Surrey, in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise, and call upon all citizens to pay tribute to the Amateur Radio operators of our City.



Mayor Dianne L. Watts
City of Surrey

The Gear...





Strategic Planning:

Brett Garrett VE7GM

Our Goal and Our Competition

Although Field Day is held the fourth full weekend in June (with the date measured in UTC time, not local time), for a small but dedicated Organizing Committee it begins some nine months earlier.

The first decision to be made is the style of event that will be planned. There are many aspects to Field Day as defined by the ARRL, the sponsoring organization. The balance between these aspects is fundamental in determining the overall Field Day experience for any team entering.

In the last few years, the SARC-SEPARS team has increased focus on contact rate and accuracy, greatly boosting our score (ARRL's measure of how well a team meets their "ideal" Field Day participant). In 2012 we attained the winning score for British Columbia in our entry category (3A, indicating three simultaneous HF transmitters in a Club event), and in 2013 we attained the winning score for Canada in that same category.

The Organizing Committee has realized, however, that with the heavy focus on making contest-style contact rates, the competitive HF stations have become increasingly "exclusive", leaving less-competitive members with reduced opportunity to join in the Field Day radio fun.

One of the challenges the Committee took on this year was to maintain a winning score while increasing the "balance" in the activities (reflected largely in the bonus points) and in making the event more "inclusive", so all members have an opportunity to participate.

The Committee members discussed amongst themselves and with others various methods of achieving these difficult and sometimes incompatible goals (balance, inclusiveness, and top-scoring competitiveness).

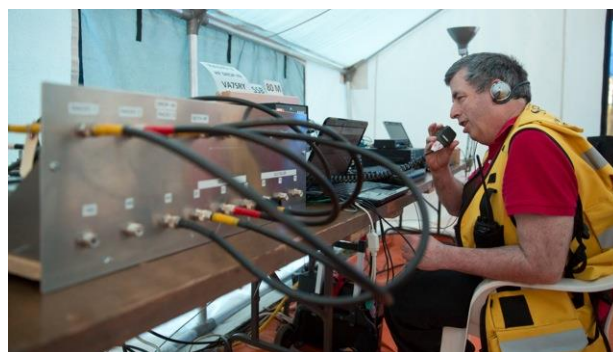
To maintain a winning score in Canada, it is essential that the contact rate contribution to our score continue to improve. To this end, the Operator Training team focused throughout the nine months before Field Day on training for the more experienced operators.

The next step in maintaining a high score was to ensure we capture all available bonus points.

One area where (despite best efforts) we fell short of our hopes in 2013 was the GOTA station, where we didn't achieve any points towards our score. The primary reason for this was that GOTA didn't have access to one of the three primary HF daytime bands (20, 15 & 10 m).

A major challenge for any Field Day planning team is management of the limited bands and modes. Running a single transmitter is easy. Adding a second, or third, or fourth transmitter increases complexity significantly with each additional transmitter. Allowing unrestricted use of bands by hams in the region of a Field Day operation can, even in the best of cases, cause serious interference to the

competitive stations, and, in the worst of cases, cause serious damage to the sensitive and expensive receivers.



Use of a filtered antenna selection panel allowed quick band changes and the use of multiple HF transceiver without interference.

Skillful management of the available bands and modes can provide an opportunity for top teams to boost their scores. While the Committee discussed and researched strategies for making fuller use of the combinations of bands and modes available, for this year the Committee decided not to greatly increase the overall technical complexity (and equipment cost) in order to "make more operating room".

That meant that, to significantly improve our 2014 GOTA operations, we would have to drop one of the competitive HF stations (so changing our category from 3A, with three simultaneous HF transmitters, to 2A, with only two simultaneous HF transmitters) thereby freeing one of the normally reliable daytime bands for GOTA.

This was admittedly an experiment, and meant cutting the available operating time for the competitive HF operators by 1/3.

GOTA was seen by the Committee as a valuable contributor to the balance and inclusiveness goals, however, and had



MLA Marvin Hunt was a willing volunteer to 'Get On The Air'. Here he is shown the process by GOTA coach Jinty Reid.

the potential of helping maintain our score if GOTA visitors were able to achieve 20 contacts each, which (under the ARRL rules) generates “bonus” points in addition to regular contact points.

To reduce the impact of losing one competitive HF transmitter on our score, the Committee significantly de-emphasized use of RTTY. Our experience from last year showed that, while we (pretty much) maintained one transmitter for each of CW, SSB, and RTTY over the full 24-hour duration, RTTY produced a disappointingly low number of contacts. So the radio that, last year, had been dedicated to operating RTTY, was dropped for 2014.

To further address the Committee’s desire to improve the inclusiveness of our Field Day we introduced a drop-in HF station, running under a different call sign than the competitive stations (which was required in order to avoid bumping us back into category 3A), for members and visitors who wished to operate non-competitively. This additional radio was also made possible by the release of band space with the change in category from 3A to 2A.



Trevor logs for his dad Fred Chen VE7CX at the Drop-in Station

To further ensure we attained the maximum bonus points, we directed energy into three other key areas:

- Gaining media attention, and the bonus points associated with that attention.
- NTS-style message handling, and the bonus points associated with each message handled.
- Youth involvement, and the bonus points associated with radio contacts obtained by the under-18 group.



Several activities were offered to stimulate youth involvement, including radio direction finding, also called ‘Fox Hunting’. Here are two participants.

In addition to the above changes, the Committee decided on two more: the first based on experience from last year, and the second due largely to opportunity knocking at our door wearing the call sign VA7NF (Stan).

The first was transfer of responsibility for radio station assembly and preparation to the operators, and away from the Field Day Organizing Committee. This reduced the burden on the small organizing committee and had the additional advantages of permitting operators to use their own equipment, and creating a learning opportunity for all operators to discover and experience the complexities of setting up a competitive portable station. (For FD2013 the radios were generously loaned to us by ICOM Canada, and Fred VE7IO set up the three competitive stations almost entirely on his own—a significant achievement.)



Jim Smith VE7FO provided the excellent K3 for Field Day use.

The second change was the use of Stan’s FlexRadio to monitor eight bands simultaneously to show where activity could be found in the bands in our area. Historically we have used the spotting network to show where other stations are operating, and we have made some use of propagation forecasting. With Stan’s FlexRadio monitor, however, we would be able to see where the combination of active HF stations and propagation worked to produce the highest likelihood of contacts for us.



Stan VA7NF’s Flex 6000 series SDR provided the ability to monitor activity on 6 bands at once. We could see where all the activity was and respond accordingly.

Taken together, the full slate of changes was expected to make for a significantly improved Field Day experience for the SARC-SEPARS team, while maintaining our winning track record. How effectively the FD2014 Committee has been able to achieve the goals of “balance” and “inclusiveness” without sacrificing “top-scoring competitiveness” remains to be seen when the final scores are published later in the year.

Media

It is difficult to get media attention for an event such as Field Day. Not that anyone thinks that emergency communications is unimportant, it's just not news-worthy unless communications fails when most needed. Time and time again, throughout the world, Hams have provided de-centralized communications in times of emergency and provided the ability to pass traffic.

We were able to successfully have SARC-SEPAR Field Day included in several prominent community calendars, including the City of Surrey. A Media Release was prepared and sent out several days in advance of Field Day, followed by an update on Friday evening. This year provided an opportunity to focus media attention because the International Space Station (ISS) was in a position that provided several good passes over North America during Field Day hours. The astronauts aboard had announced their intention to work stations during their passes. With this in mind, we notified the media in advance that we would be attempting to make a contact with the astronauts aboard the ISS on Saturday afternoon.

Our persistence paid off as Global TV and the Surrey Now newspaper attended. We achieved a prominent spot in both the dinner time and late night news. The Surrey Now ran a story with photos the following week. Click on the [story](http://www.thenownewspaper.com/amateur-radio-enthusiasts-have-a-field-day-in-surrey-1.1197264) for a better view or visit <http://www.thenownewspaper.com/amateur-radio-enthusiasts-have-a-field-day-in-surrey-1.1197264>

THE SURREY NOW NEWSPAPER.COM

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014 A05

ENGAGE

Emergency preparedness

Amateur radio enthusiasts have a 'Field Day' in Surrey

Gord Goble
Now contributor
Twitter @thenownewspaper

SURREY — With cell phones, email and the Internet bringing the world to our doorsteps in just a few button presses or mouse clicks, one might think the fate of old school amateur "ham" radio is sealed.

Think again.

There's an expression among those in the know: "When all else fails, amateur radio works." In other words, in the event of massive infrastructure failure (think war, terrorism, natural disaster), the techie folks with the headsets and the mics and the call signs may well be the only ones getting the word out — and in. It happened during 9/11, Hurricane Katrina and the 2011 earthquake in Japan. And it will happen again.

On a recent Saturday, the local detachment of a global army of amateur radio operators — volunteers all — showed off their stuff. They brought along their slickest gear, they erected antennae, they laid out tents and tables and informational pamphlets, and they welcomed youngsters and oldsters and all people in between. And they went to work scanning the region — and the continent — for as many like-minded individuals as possible.



Alessandro (Alex) Danese, IZ7FMM, a recent immigrant from Italy and SARC member, operating one of the competitive radio stations in voice mode. All radios are computer-assisted and equipped with dedicated "contest" software. In his spare time, Danese prepared Italian cuisine for the crew during "Field Day" in Surrey. (Photo: GORD GOBLE)

It was a good day for making contacts. In fact, it was the very best day of the year. Known as "Field Day," June 28 was a North America-wide event where amateur radio's brightest and most knowledgeable people set up shop in similar encampments across the continent. And while the day was part public

education, part emergency preparedness dress rehearsal and part political hobnob (Surrey mayoralty candidate Linda Hepner, MP Jinny Sims and MLA Marvin Hunt all stopped by), arguably the coolest part, at least for veteran members of Surrey Amateur Radio Club (SARC), was

the chance to reach out anywhere and everywhere in a contest format.

By the end of Field Day — a 24-hour period — SARC members, six using voice and four using Morse Code, had made no less than 1510 unique contacts. An impressive showing, says SARC president John Brodie VA7XB (amateur radio operators typically run their given names and call signs together), who justifiably points out the total is almost twice that of last year's Canadian divisional winner.

Field Day at the SARC site, on the old Grandview School grounds at the intersection of 20th Avenue and 176th Street, is an interesting time. In the main tent, recent Russian immigrant Mike Zavarukhin VE7ACN worked antiquated yet efficient Morse Code and showed his frustration when a potential contact wasn't quite made. Blind SARC member Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV used a computer attached to his radio and a device for converting the screen image to Braille. Another station sat temporarily empty, its operator undoubtedly handling some other duty. The tables overflowed with transceivers and displays, and the floor was littered with batteries and mobile power supplies.

see » page 6

◀ from page 5

In a trailer 50 feet away, Al Neufeld VE7CDC ran a Get On The Air (GOTA) station, coaching total radio noobs on the absolute basics. Outside, the landscape in every direction was dotted with various types of antennae, including an absolute monster donated by Telus in 2011 that soars a hundred feet into the sky and weighs a pavement-crushing five tonnes.

At the info booth, Joe Zaccaria VE7TOL greeted visitors, answered questions and directed them this

way and that. He took a moment to proudly show off the sweet setup in his truck: a mobile system he says has connected him with operators hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles away.

But the real excitement was at the back of John Schouten VE7TI's pickup truck. As various SARC members gathered around, Schouten brandished a handheld antenna, pointing it in the direction of the International Space Station. An hour earlier, they'd made contact with astronaut (and fellow amateur radio licensee

— most astronauts are) Reid Wiseman KF5LKT, and the gang tried to do it again. One problem: SARC was one of hundreds of clubs trying to do the same thing. Bombarded with requests, Wiseman was unable to respond.

Twenty-four hours later, the Grandview School site was empty once again. Next year, members of SARC will participate in the 2015 Field Day. In the meantime, they'll continue to pursue their "hobby," standing ready should a day come that no one wants to see.

For more information on SARC and amateur radio, visit Ve7sar.net.

Missed the Global TV news story on SARC-SEPAR Field Day?

Have a look at the coverage on our SARC YouTube page:

tinyurl.com/fd14-sarc

or click the picture below



Randene Neill
@rmneillglobal

Global
BC



The ISS Contact

During the week leading up to Field day, NASA announced that ISS crew member Reid Wiseman KF5LKT would be activating the Amateur Radio station aboard the orbiting laboratory with the ISS callsign N1SS. There was a possibility that a Russian crew member would be activating a second transceiver under their callsign.

The station aboard the ISS operates on VHF with an unusual split, not the standard 600 kHz we are used to with local repeaters. Having programmed the required frequencies into the radio, and with a list of scheduled passes in hand, we were going to give it a good try.

We missed the first pass because it was just after our 11am start time and we were busy guiding our VIP guests around the site. We were ready for the second and subsequent passes however.

The crew operates on Zulu time so this was evening work for them. On the second pass we copied N1SS at only 5 degrees above the horizon. A bit scratchy at first but within a minute it was a crystal clear signal as we heard astronaut Wiseman acknowledge several stations. He asked for patience and explained he was hearing the calls but was only able to respond to as many as he could copy. Unfortunately, despite a 10 minute window, we were unable to make the contact.

On the next pass, about 90 minutes later, we were ready again and pointed the Arrow antenna in the direction of the horizon where the ISS should rise. Again we heard the station clearly. After several calls, and almost straight overhead we were acknowledged. A loud cheer and applause followed our accomplishment.

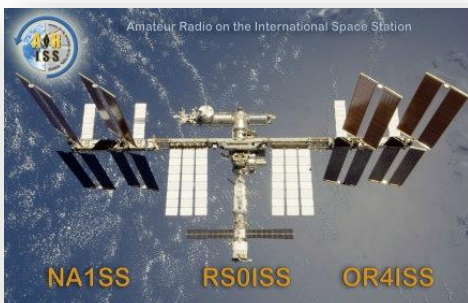
I have sent away for an ISS QSL card to confirm our contact.

John VE7TI

The passes. We were successful on the third from the top. Later passes were progressively further south



There was lots of interest for our satellite activities, both for the ISS and the unmanned variety of hamsats.



Astronaut Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, operates Field Day from N1SS. Wiseman and fellow astronaut Steve Swanson showed their heads last week after losing a World Cup bet. (Photo courtesy of NASA)



Special Visitors

We received visits from local elected officials from all three levels of government and from served agencies. Representatives of two emergency services attended, as did Surrey Councillor Linda Hepner and honorary SARC member, former Surrey Councillor, now MLA, Marvin Hunt, a long-time supporter of SARC and SEPAR.

Early in the afternoon, MP Jinny Sims and her constituency assistant also visited the Field Day site. We thank them all for attending.

The media also visited the site. Global Television and The Surrey Now newspaper provided welcome publicity for the club, our Field Day effort and Amateur Radio.

V.I.P. Visits



Surrey Councillor and Mayoral candidate **Linda Hepner**, RCMP 'E' Division Emergency Planner, **S/Sgt Ron Casey VE7VTA**, and MLA **Marvin Hunt**.

Also attending later, Deputy Chief **Dan Barnscher** of Surrey Fire Services.



A first... an opening ceremony. Both SARC President **John Brodie** and SEPAR Coordinator **Fred Orsetti** commented on Field Day 2014. Above, Councillor **Linda Hepner** proclaims Amateur Radio Week on behalf of the Mayor and Council. Both she and MLA **Marvin Hunt** praised the work of our volunteers and officially opened the event at 11am.



Left: Surrey Member of Parliament **Jinny Sims**

Our VIPs tweeted about their visits shortly thereafter



Our distinguished visitors showed great enthusiasm for our programs and were interested to tour the site to learn more about the hobby and its role in emergency communications.

Gourmet Fare

SARC Field-Day Contest 2014

Menu

- Lunch -

Entrée



Everyone agreed the food was top notch this year thanks to our new member, Chef Alex Danese.

Alex prepared a delicious menu for lunch, dinner and Sunday breakfast featuring Italian cuisine. Thanks also to Alex's other half Simona who, we understand, was the sous chef.



SEPAR PARTICIPATES AT FIELD DAY 2014

This year the SEPAR mobile communications trailer was ready for use as the GOTA station and by all accounts the radios functioned well. The trailer is now equipped with lighting, computers, packet modem and BCWARN all of which went a long way to providing a comfortable, secure operating unit. The trailer's BCWARN system was connected to a dish on the roof of Hall 14 where a link was established to provide an internet connection for the field day operation. The packet radio was available for messaging however messages were handled using voice communication on VHF. SEPAR passed 10 messages plus the message to the RAC Section Manager.

SEPAR provided coax, generators, computers, pop up tents, the communications trailer and internet linking equipment to help make field day a resounding success.

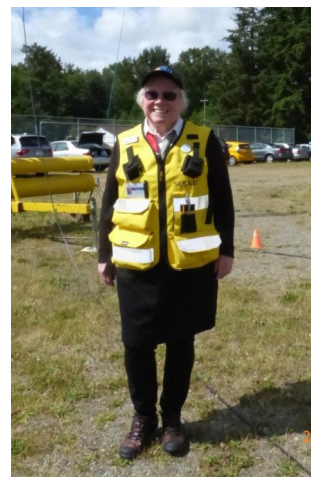
Peter, VE7PGX, passed messages to Fred, VE7IO, on VHF and they were delivered by hand to operators at the Orca field day site. The message to the Section Manager was relayed using Winlink and Winmor.

SEPAR had a public information booth set up where information on preparation for emergencies was handed out to the public. The Surrey Emergency Program has a number of different brochures plus material for children with complete instructions on dealing with major disasters as well as emergencies. SEPAR members were on site to distribute this material.

One near disaster occurred right after the opening ceremonies when a gust of wind toppled our pop-up tent and blew our handouts all over the lot. With the quick response from members on site we gathered all the handouts and setup a replacement tent. This time it was anchored down so no further problems occurred.

Field Day is a once a year outing covering all of North America with the objective being to test our ability in providing emergency communications in the event of a disaster or emergency. This year SEPAR had an opportunity to field test our communications trailer and while it is still under construction the radio and digital equipment functioned very well. With some additional financing the communications trailer should be complete giving us expanded digital communications. The BCWARN dish mounting and new telescopic mast will enhance our ability to provide internet access and this is a priority for SEPAR.

*Fred VE7IO
SEPAR Coordinator.*



The Site



Grandview Heights School, c. 1922

In the 1920s, local parents began to lobby the School Board to build a new school so that children would not travel along remote country roads and through heavily treed areas to the Hall's Prairie School miles from their homes. Eventually a lot was chosen on the northeast corner of Stokes Road (20 Avenue) and Clover Valley Road (176 Street).

The School Board provided the land, materials and a head carpenter. Local residents cleared the bush, pulled out roots and leveled the site with a team of horses and a hand-held scraper. They erected a one-room school, a wood shed and two outhouses. As Alec McBeth was shingling the roof, he remarked that he could see Semiahmoo Bay, Blaine and all the surrounding countryside. He said, "What a grand view!" It was decided that this would be a good name for the school, originally spelled Grand View Heights.

A Good Place to Learn



Mrs. Hugh and the class of 1922

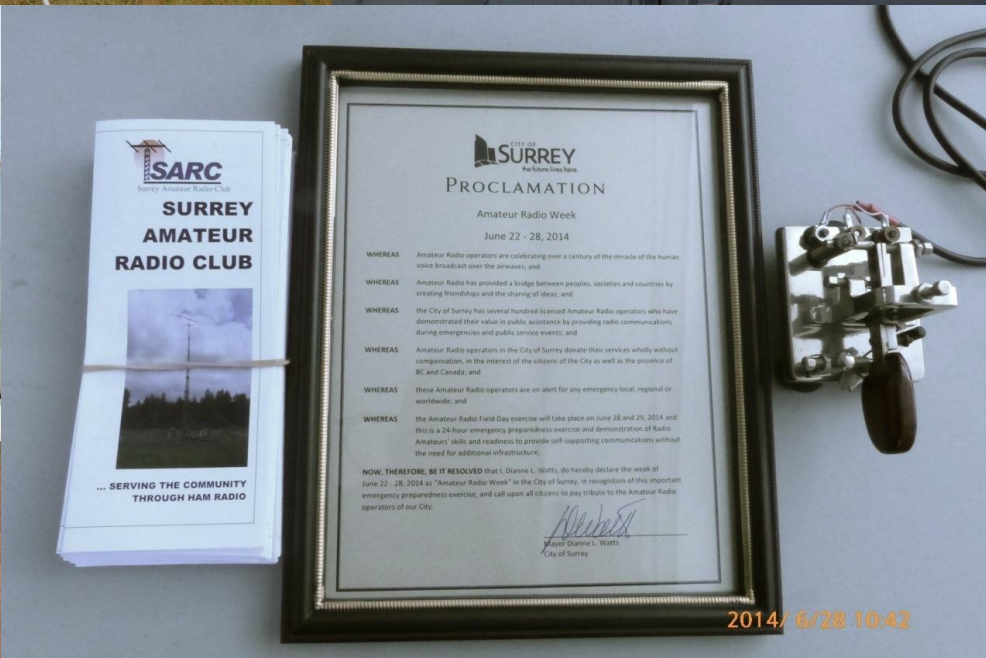
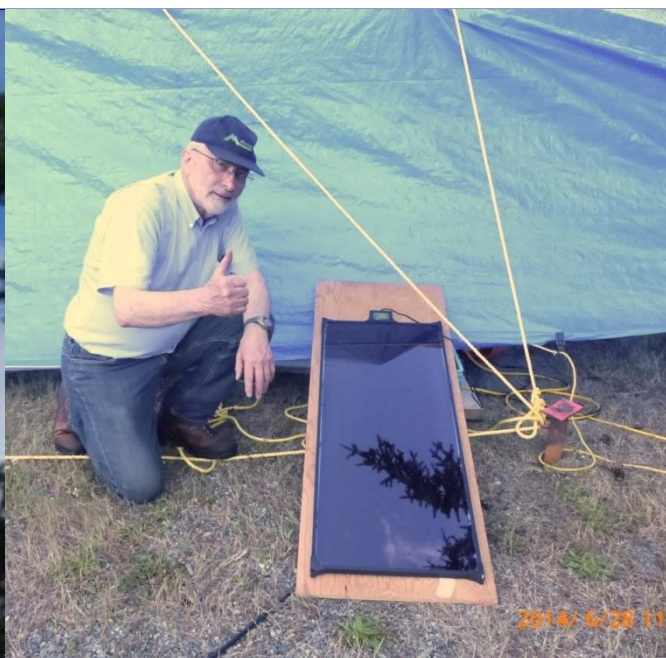
The building was completed and a ceremony held during the holiday weekend on May 24, 1922. The School Board announced that classes would not commence until September. Parents insisted that the children would begin school the next day and so Mrs. Delta Hugh was quickly recruited to start teaching on May 25. One of the pupils of the first class, Betty Huff, recalled that there was much excitement in the community when the school opened. Although it had no electricity and no central heating, it had an important place in the heart of the community. The school was typical of all schools of the period—it was painted grey outside, green inside, had an oiled wood floor, and a wood stove for heat. Water from a neighbour's well was carried to the school and stored in a crock.

All of the community parties were held in the school. Local families walked there by the light of their barn lanterns. Once they arrived at the school, the lanterns were hung on ceiling hooks to illuminate the room. When the community grew, the old one-room school was preserved and valued for its heritage.

The Grandview Heights School site is a reasonably good Field Day site. 2014 was our third year at this location and our familiarity with the site shows in our results, which get better by the year.

It is on a hill with a good east view, ideal because most of our points come from the heavily populated US East coast.







The Contest Contender

Jim Smith VE7FO

Field Day 2014 Results

This year was "different" in a number of respects.

To begin with, the decision was made that the Get On The Air (GOTA) station was to be a much higher priority this year. In the past the three HF Op positions got their pick of the bands and GOTA got what was left. With propagation conditions at the time supporting only three bands this left very slim pickings for GOTA ops, which led to a rather unsatisfactory experience.

The only way to make a suitably active band available for GOTA was to eliminate one of the HF Op positions, so that's what we did. Consequently, our Class changed from 3A (club group - 3 transmitters) to 2A (club group - 2 transmitters).

While we planned to check out the possibility of having 2 op positions on the same band, which would allow us to run 3 op positions, we thought it would be prudent to assume that this wouldn't work hence the decision to go 2A. If it did work that would help a lot but our planning didn't depend on it.

It was felt that some members, while not wanting to operate on the competitive side of things, might enjoy the opportunity to do some casual FD operating so a "drop in" station was provided for this purpose. This station operated under a different call sign from VE7SAR and so didn't put us back into the 3A class. It used the GOTA band when there was no one operating the GOTA station.

While not everything worked out as planned we did VERY well indeed.

SCORE BREAKDOWNS FOR 2014

We get 2 points for each CW QSO, 2 for each RTTY QSO and 1 for each Phone QSO.

	CW	Digi	Phone	QSO
BAND	QSOs	QSOs	QSOs	Points
80m	91	0	10	192
40m	105	0	212	422
20m	545	0	238	1328
15m	211	0	94	516
10m	0	0	0	0
6m	0	0	4	4
2m	0	0	0	0
70cm	0	0	0	0
GOTA	0	0	31	31
Sat	0	0	0	0

TOTAL	CW	Digi	Ph	QSO	Points
	952	0	589	2493 x 2 for low power =	4,986
				Bonus Points =	1,270
				TOTAL SCORE =	6,256

It turns out that the SAT QSO must be ground to SAT to ground. Ground to Int'l Space Station doesn't count. We didn't make any other Sat Qs.

DIFFICULTIES

Fred, VE7IO, ran into some health issues which required him to withdraw from most FD activities. This meant that he couldn't do the gear setup and testing at the staging area. Fortunately for us, we were still able to use his facilities for staging.

Brett, VE7GM, took on some consulting work which made it more difficult for him to oversee the FD planning and execution.

I had to spend more time than before in assisting my XYL with various household chores. In addition, one of the two Elecraft K3 radios I was making available for FD was in kit form and had to be assembled. This took a lot longer than expected. (I have to check everything 3-4 times so I don't make mistakes.)

The net result was that a number of things didn't work out as planned.



YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISONS

Class	3A	3A	3A	3A	2A
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Our QSO Pts				5902	4986
Our Bonus Pts				1360	1270
Our Score	3620	3720	5536	7262	6256

ALL CANADA

Class	3A	3A	3A	3A	2A	2A	2A
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2012	2013	2014
#1 VE Score	7626	4648	6442	7262	3982	3852	6256?
#1 VE Call Sign	VE3CJ	VE7SCC	VE3HB	VE7SAR	VE3RC	VE3RC	VE7SAR?
#2 VE Score	5340	3976	5536	7160	3980	3722	
#2 VE Call Sign	VE7SCC	VE3RL	VE7LSY	VE3HB	VE1FO	VE7NSR	
#3 VE Score	3620	3720	4418	3594	3964	3036	
#3 VE Call Sign	VE7LSY	VE7LSY	VE7SCC	VE2CVR	VE3SGB	VE7PCE	

*Note: VE7LSY was the triumvirate call of SARC, SEPAR and the Langley Club

This is an amazing result. Our score beat last year's 2A winner, VE3RC, by a bit over 60%. Looks like our ops are getting better and better.

K3 READINESS

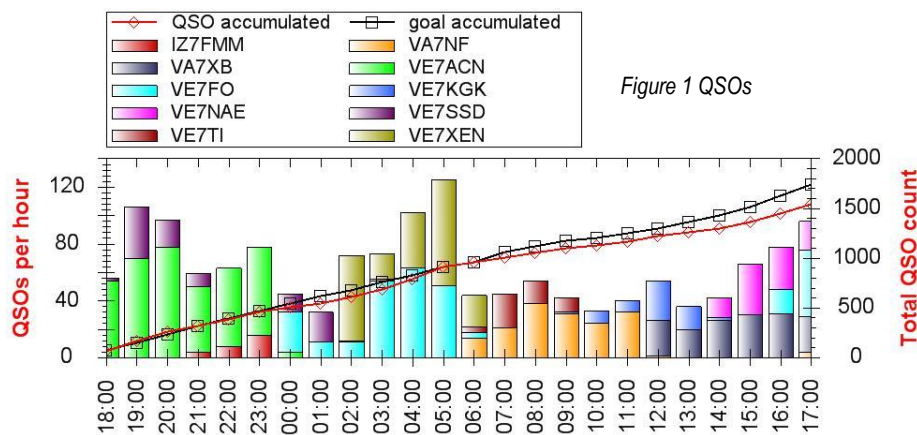
I was late getting the K3's to the staging area at Fred's. Once there I had endless problems getting an unfamiliar interface between the radios and computers working. Consequently, come Friday setup day I had one K3 ready and one not. I didn't expect it would take a lot of time to get it operational so I wasn't worried about it. However, there was a delay of, I think, three hours in gaining access to the op tent. Once there I set up the K3 which was ready and was dismayed to see that the K3 internal voltmeter was reading 9.4V on key down. Lots of fiddling with various power cables, etc. until we realized that if we're drawing 20A on key down and the battery float charger is set to 2A then the battery is going to run down. Setting the charge rate to something more appropriate took care of that problem. However, by this time it's getting dark and I have to go home while it's still light enough for me to make the trip back to the Dunbar area of Vancouver.

So, we still have a K3 that isn't ready. John, VA7XB, rescued the situation by bringing his own rig from home on Saturday and setting it up in time for the starting horn.

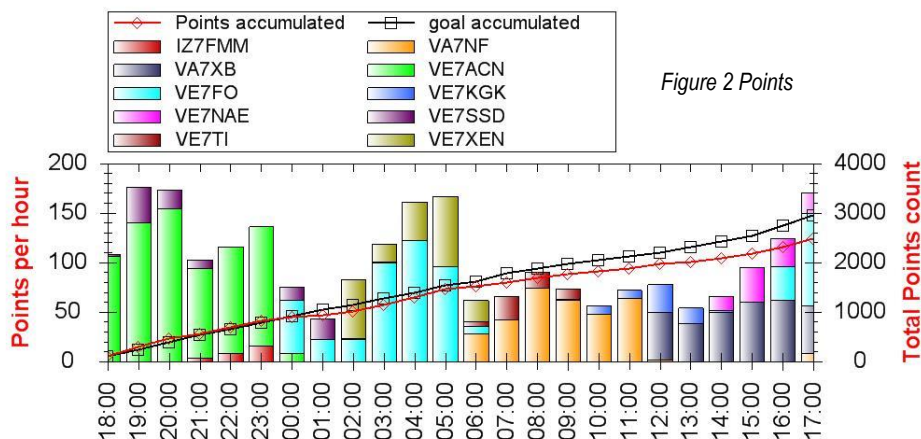
TWO OP POSITIONS ON THE SAME BAND (BUT DIFFERENT MODES)

This is a risky business as, if not done properly, it's very easy to burn out an expensive receiver front end. However, if it can be done safely, it provides

JUN-26-2014 FD ALL BANDS TOTAL



JUN-26-2014 FD ALL BANDS TOTAL



enormous flexibility for the Station Manager as he can, for example, put one op position on 20 CW and the other on 20 SSB.

The K3 receivers have exceptional strong signal performance and are ideal candidates for such a setup, putting one on the Bigfoot Yagi and the other on Ol' Yeller. The plan was to test this out at the staging area using Fred's antennas. That didn't happen. One could have tried this out on the FD site but now we don't have 2 K3's and I didn't want to do any testing which might put XB's radio at risk.

We still need to check this out. I'm going to do some tests at home but, as one antenna is a triband Yagi and the other is a 20-10m vertical mounted only a couple of feet above the Yagi, the coupling between the antennas may be too strong for this approach to be usable here. Still, it will enable me to check how good the theoretical interference calculations are.

STATION MANAGER (SM)

We still haven't got this function working properly. The plan was to set up the K3's, computers, etc. at the staging area a couple of weeks before FD and provide Station Manager and Op Training on them and on the tools used to determine which bands we should be on.

Well, the K3's didn't get there in time for this so the training didn't happen and nobody (except me) signed up for SM duties.

STATION MANAGER TOOLS

We use a number of tools during FD to monitor how we're doing and to help us decide which bands and modes we should be on at any given time.

Propagation Predictions

Before FD I usually generate propagation predictions for a number of areas in the US. These take into account the radiation patterns of the antennas which we have decided to use.

We also use this for evaluating any new antenna proposals which are put forward from time to time.

From this we generate an operator schedule, putting the most experienced ops on the high rate bands with an emphasis on CW as CW QSO's count two points as opposed to Phone's one point.

I didn't have time to do it this year.

We run HamCAP to provide propagation predictions during FD. However, we tend to pay more attention to what the spots are telling us (when we have them. (See the spots heading below.) It does alert us to possible band openings, though.

Progress Graphs

The major tool we use for measuring progress during the event is a software program called Athena. It draws a graph (the red line) showing number of QSOs accumulated over time. See Figure 1 - QSOs (page 17). The right axis shows total number of QSOs.

The vertical bars show the total number of QSOs made during each hour as indicated on the left axis.

The black line shows the results from last year. Note that the black line is for the THREE op positions we had last year and that the red line is for the TWO op positions we had this year. Well done, guys.

It will also show points instead of QSOs. See Figure 2 - POINTS (page 17). (1 point for 'phone, 2 for CW/RTTY)

These graphs are updated every two minutes.

Although not shown here it will display the same info for individual bands.

By monitoring the individual band graphs the SM can see if the rate is dropping and attempt to do something about it such as change antennas or band.

Spots

There is a mechanism whereby anyone who hears a station can post the time heard and the station's call sign and frequency to the internet. This process is called "spotting" and each such post is called a "spot". Provided net access is available, these spots can be fed into the logging program where the op can see them listed. Instead of laboriously tuning through a band looking for stations to call the op can simply click on a spot and the radio will tune to the spotted station's frequency so the op can call it. This can speed things up a lot.

There are automated spotters in a number of locations around the world called Skimmers which can listen to an entire ham band at once (or even more than one) and spot every CW and RTTY station it hears. The Skimmer spots also include the received signal strength of the spotted station. So, if you're spotted by a Skimmer you can see how loud you are at that location.

There is something called the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) which will show you signal strength graphs of all the spots on a band for any particular call from whichever Skimmers you select. So you enter your call, pick some Skimmers in an area in which you are interested and see how strong you are there. Do the same for a competitor's call and smugly note that you're 10 dB stronger than he (or not).

This is very helpful to the SM as he can see if our signal into a highly productive area is too weak and can make adjustments, such as reorienting or switching the antenna or switching bands.

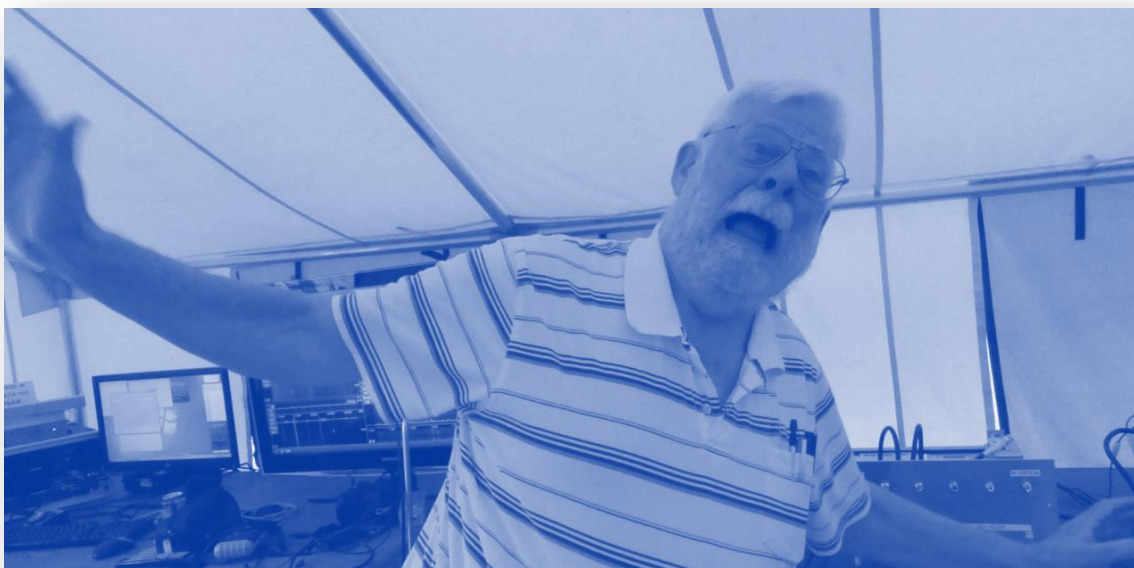
It can also be used for post FD analysis of our and our competitors' signals throughout FD.

Not having SM's this year meant that no one got the RBN access up and running. We did have spots the ops could click on.

Flex Radio

Stan - VA7NF - brought his FlexRadio signature series 6700 for its FD premiere as a station manager tool, VHF station and guest attention grabber.

The radio, rack mounted in a portable case sitting quietly out of the way, with no knobs or screens, does the heavy lifting for a network connected computer and its eye catching 40" HD monitor/TV screen.



We're not sure if this is Jim panicking at 11am Saturday because the stations are not ready or celebrating a good score on Sunday morning at 11! No, wait... young Keenan VE7XEN is only 25% behind 'ol fart FO's QSO total.

Technically the radio is a Direct Digital Sampling device where the entire radio spectrum from 30Khz to 60Mhz is continuously captured into a SCU (Spectral Capture Unit) which drives up to 4 (slice) receivers, each capable of handling up to 14Mhz spectrum slices. The 6700 has a second SCU which also captures up to 60Mhz plus 100Mhz to 160Mhz; it supplies signal to a second bank of 4 slice receivers (8 receivers in total).

In this FD application there were 4 receivers set to view via panadapter and waterfall, the entire 40M, 20M, 15M, and 10M bands; 10M was dropped and 80M added later in the evening.

The antenna for band monitoring was a Pixel broadband magnetic loop mounted on the VHF tower and fed into one of the Rx only connections.

The second SCU was connected to a 6M and 2M multi-element beam supplied by Jim - VE7FO. So concurrent with monitoring the low bands this station was also an active CW, SSB and RTTY station with 100W on 6M and 75W on 2M.

The large screen with 6 active windows performed well as an attention grabber and conversation point as well as viewing real-time band activity. Lightly used frequencies were clearly visible for stations looking for a run frequency.

We're obviously going to have to learn how the SM can best make use of this powerful tool. One possible use is to generate our own Skimmer spots.

Thank you Stan for making this available to us (and for writing the above description of it).

GOTA

Well, I think we have the start of a success story here. 31 Qs. Most since I've been with SARC. All on 40 & 80 SSB. Worked VE6, VE7 and various W7 States. Most Qs made by 1 person was 14 so no 20 QSO bonus points.

CONCLUSION

Because of the various demands on my time I found this FD particularly difficult. However, a lot of the issues have been overcome and I look forward to the use of the K3's (with both on the same band) in 2015. Personal issues aside, it is once again very gratifying to see the very positive results of the op training program, as evidenced by the fact that we made almost as many Qs with two op positions as we did last year with three.

Thank you and congratulations to all for a job well done. There is no doubt in my mind that a lot of people are going to be noticing the phoenix-like rising from the ashes of its former FD glory of the Surrey ARC.

73, Jim VE7FO



Other Field Day Activities



GOTA (Get On The Air)

Coordinator: Jinty Reid VA7JMR

GOTA is an opportunity for Novice licensees, newly licensed amateurs, other generally inactive licensees, and non-licensed persons to experience first-hand the fun of amateur radio by allowing them to Get On The Air. A club may employ only one GOTA station. The GOTA station may operate on any amateur band on which Field Day operation is permitted (HF or VHF). The modes and frequencies are determined by the license class of the control operator of the GOTA station. There must be a control operator permitted to use the frequencies and modes desired in direct control of the GOTA station any time it is transmitting.

The GOTA station uses a callsign different from the call being used by the group's main Field Day operation. The GOTA station also uses a single callsign for the duration of Field Day. GOTA stations use the same exchange as its "parent" station.

The GOTA station may contact any other amateur radio station, with a couple of exceptions. The GOTA station may not work its "parent" Field Day station. It may not contact any station operated by a person who was involved with their group's Field Day operation.

The GOTA station is not for everyone. The generally inactive licensee provisions pertain to someone who holds a Basic or higher class license but has been inactive. The intent and the spirit of this station is to provide an opportunity for persons to gain valuable on-the-air experience and progress to operating the regular club stations in the future. The intent is not to develop a group of "permanent GOTA Field Day operators". This is also not a station that a club "ringer" operates in order to rack up points. The list of operators of this station must be submitted with the Field Day entry.



Garvin VA7YEE



Elizabeth VE7ELA



Who is this newbie?

Drop-In Station

Coordinator: Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV

Drop In to the Drop In Station

Rob volunteered the use of his Kenwood HF station, augmented by software to enable blind operators to use the keyboard. The station was setup to permit visiting operators to participate in the Field Day experience. In all, well over 50 contacts were made.

Rob was able to make some contacts himself as well, and enjoyed himself immensely.



Kid's Activities

Coordinator: Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Al VA7ALZ and Joe VE7TOL volunteered to organize another bonus point source, kid's activities.

We offered Morse Code practice and radio direction finding, also known as 'Fox Hunting'.



Both young and old were interested in the activity. MLA Hunt found all the foxes and the kids participating found it to be great fun. The kids got a special certificate too.



SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

RADIO OPERATIONS
VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO
OBSERVE, BUT PLEASE
NO LOUD TALKING

Radio Operations

As mentioned under Strategic Planning, radio operations this year were based on the premise that we had to have more quality radio time for the GOTA and drop-in stations as, under normal circumstances, we could expect only 3 “usable” HF bands to be open at any given time - 10, 15, and 20 m during the day and 20, 40 and 80 m at night. The decision of the core planning team to drop from 3A to 2A reflected our attempt to provide more opportunity for all HF stations.



Antennas

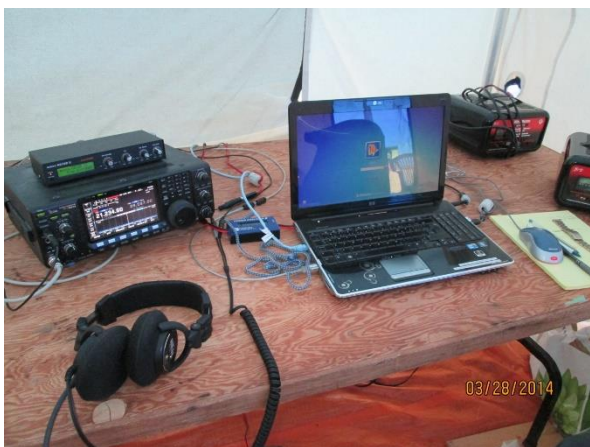
The plan for the high bands (10, 15, 20 m) called for use of SARC's 2 towers - one 55 ft high and the other 100 ft high - each equipped with a TH7 tri-band beam. Each beam was connected to its own triplexer and bandpass filters so that up to 3 radios could share the same antenna.

If conditions were such that we wanted to operate 2 radios on the same band (e.g. one on CW and the other on SSB), the duplication of 10-15-20 antenna capability would allow that. A great deal of thought went into the protection required for the radios so that strong signals from one radio/antenna operating on a close frequency would not overpower or damage the second radio. Having the beams correctly positioned and pointed to the same azimuth was one condition, so that the end-to-end radiation off the beams would be minimal. A second level of protection was installation of front-end protectors on the radios.

Similarly, we intended to have duplicate antennas on the low bands (40 and 80 m). An 80/40 trapezoidal loop plus a horizontal 40 m dipole were to provide that duplication on 40 m. Unfortunately a test setup of the loop showed it to have some physical obstacles to success which could not be remedied within the limited time available, and so the idea was abandoned two weeks before Field Day.

Both beams and the 80 and 40 m wire antennas were aligned to approximately 100 deg azimuth, broadside to the most densely populated area of the US, and left in that position for the entire Field Day period.





We hoped that we would find some activity on VHF and for that possibility, a 2/6 m beam with rotator on a 30 ft tower was set up. 6 m was only open for a few brief moments, therefore only a few SSB contacts were made on 6m.

Radios

All radios and all antennas were connected to a “patch panel” equipped with triplexers, bandpass filters and surge protectors. This setup allowed complete flexibility in the connection of radios to antennas.

The plan called for use of Elecraft K3 radios for the two competitive stations but at the last-minute an Icom IC-7600 was substituted for one of the K3s. Both were equipped with Microham Microkeyer II interfaces. The K3 was used exclusively for CW and the IC-7600 for SSB. N1MM logging software was installed on the laptop computers connected to each radio, and networked.

The competitive radios obtained their power from 12 volt batteries continuously charged by battery charger running off 120 VAC from two Honda inverter generators. This allowed continuous operation even if the generators were to run out of gas and shut down temporarily.

A Flex 6700 software defined radio was set up to operate VHF and also to monitor the HF bands using the spectrum scope to show activity.

As it turned out, two radios operating simultaneously on the same band was never attempted. Next year this should be a priority.

Internet Connection

The BC Wireless Amateur Radio Network ([BC-WARN](#)) is a local innovation. It presently covers most Greater Vancouver municipalities and southern Vancouver Island. BC-WARN is capable of providing high-speed Internet, telephone and video services via Amateur Radio. This year we managed to get an Internet connection to our field day site using Surrey Fire Hall 14. We built a point to point wireless bridge using a BC-WARN AirGrid wireless antenna system. This system was backed by an HSPA modem provided by Keenan (VE7XEN). This setup was configured in such a way that if the primary Internet connection failed, it would automatically failover to a secondary connection, allowing seamless internet access. Many thanks to Surrey Fire IT and SARC members' help to get this working.

Drop-in and GOTA Stations

This year's SARC decided to have a "Drop-In" station for HF operation. Rob VE7CZV volunteered his Kenwood station for this operation. Since he was not directly competing in the FD he was using the less populated bands.

The GOTA station utilized the Kenwood TS-480SAT in SEPAR's trailer.

NTS Messages

Peter scored some bonus points by completing a message originating to the section manager and initiating ten NTS style messages. This was initially attempted digitally with RMS express but, as sometimes happens with amateur radio, that mode was unavailable as the Digipeater could not be contacted. Falling back to good old VHF FM, the messages were transmitted to Fred VE7IO using voice for a total of 200 bonus points. In addition, Fred VE7IO copied the W1AW bulletin and scored an additional 100 points.



Field Day Acknowledgements

John Brodie VA7XB

What a Great Team!

Our success at Field Day was the result of a lot of hard work, commitment and the generosity of many members who deserve our profound thanks. It is especially noteworthy that some participants spent their own money on supplies and rentals but declined compensation.

Let's thank them all, in alphabetical order:

Al VE7CDC - assisted with preliminary site layout and Friday setup, organized portable and alternative power, provided tarps, gas and other equipment, assisted with transportation of the yellow tower and assisted Jinty with GOTA coaching duties



Al VA7ALZ - assisted Joe VE7TOL at the Public Information table, organized the foxhunt, helped John VE7TI with the ISS contact and transported club items from Anton's. It should be noted that Al rented a cargo trailer and declined to accept payment for it. It was also Al's idea to relocate the tarp and tent to a better location (a big improvement over the original concept) and he supervised its setup.



Alex IZ7FMM and his wife Simona - prepared 3 sumptuous meals of Italian cuisine, despite limited cooking facilities and lack of a means of transport (rectified by Nelson VE7NAE and Jonathon VA7JBC).



Anton VE7SSD - provided many of SARC's inventory items out of storage, helped get them to FD and back again, supervised setup and organization of tents etc. on site, helped with antenna setup and assisted with GOTA coaching duties.



Arthur VE7SIE & Nicole VE7PET - purchased and made sure cold drinks, coffee and snack items were available; they also provided site security on Friday night and Arthur was our site safety guy.



Brett VE7GM - provided the leadership and organization of the core planning group, kept the plan moving and diplomatically worked to resolve many of the problems which arose, despite other competing demands on his time. Assisted with the tent, antennas and other setup tasks on Friday.



Earl VE7IN - assisted with setup and tear-down, even though he isn't a member of either Club.

Fred VE7IO - made his QTH available for pre-FD dry equipment testing, copied the W1AW message, received the NTS messages and made SEPAR equipment available



The People

Hiu VE7YXG - diligently photographed all the activities.



Jim VE7FO - a member of the core planning team, provided his K3 radios c/w Microham interface and computer programmed for N1MM, supplied a 2/6 m yagi, supplied the UPS for the N1MM computer, undertook web submission of score



Jinty VA7JMR - organized and ran the GOTA station and helped Alex shop for food



Joe VE7TOL - set up and organized the public information table & educational activity with assistance of Al VE7ALZ, met and greeted visitors. Joe, through a personal contact, was instrumental in us getting the Global BC TV coverage.



John VE7TI - member of the core planning team, responsible for all the great publicity and invitations to public officials, made the ISS contact, created certificates and advertising posters, crafted the Amateur Radio Week proclamation, transported the big tower, was M/C for the opening ceremony



John VA7XB - member of the core planning team, checked and serviced wire and beam antennas, prepared site layouts, made up signs, provided his IC-7600 radio and odds & ends, confirmed performance of antennas and feedlines once installed, led the site setup



Kapila VE7KGK - provided the Internet connection and networked the computers; assisted with photography



Kjeld VE7GP - provided gas for the generators, assisted with misc setup activities including erection of wire antennas, made himself generally useful; Kjeld also took care of Al VE7CDC's vehicle after Al's accident



Keenan VE7XEN - worked with Kapila to provide an Internet connection, networking of computers and trouble-shooting



Mike VE7ACN - assembled and erected beam antennas



Nelson VE7NAE - helped Alex with transportation of food to and from site and setup of antennas



Nicole VE7PET - worked with Arthur to purchase and provide refreshments and provide Friday night security. Nicole was also very efficient at having attendees sign the PEP Task Sheet.



Peter VE7PGX - prepared and sent NTS messages



Rick VE7GMO – Assisted with setup, take-down and transport



Rob VE7CZV and Elizabeth VA7ELA - set up and ran the drop-in station; Elizabeth was also our most productive GOTA operator



Ron Casey VE7VTA - showed up in his red serge RCMP uniform and arranged for an RCMP vehicle to stay overnight



Scott VE7HA - took care of financial matters, including collecting payment for meals; sourced a donation of soft drinks



Sheldon VA7XNL - assisted with antenna and other setup tasks



Stan VA7NF - member of the core planning team, took on antenna strategic planning, provided his Flex SDR radio for VHF operation and band monitoring, provided computers for the operators and station monitoring, assisted Jinty with GOTA, transported SEPAR's trailer and equipment to the site and was the SEPAR liaison person



Several additional members - not individually acknowledged - came out and helped with setup and take-down - as always we couldn't have done it without you.

Competitive Team Operators:

CW Team: Mike VE7ACN, Jim VE7FO, Stan VA7NF, John VA7XB

SSB Team: John VE7TI, Kapila VE7KGK, Alex IZ7FMM, Nelson VE7NAE, Anton VE7SSD, Keenan VE7XEN

Thanks again this year to Dan Barnscher of Surrey Fire Services for getting us the Grandview site at no cost, and to SuperSave who provided toilets free as a community service

Our appreciation goes out to the dignitaries that showed up and offered their support: MP Jinny Sims, MLA Marvin Hunt, and Surrey Councillor Linda Hepner



Rob Schick

rob@polarbattery.com

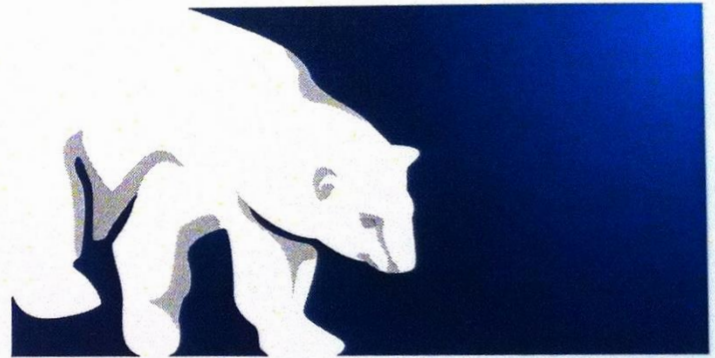
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Don't forget...

Our regular meetings resume in September. We have a great new year of programs and events. In the meantime, please join us for coffee or a cold drink at McDonalds, on 72nd Avenue, just west of King George Boulevard on Wednesday, August 13 at 7pm for a summer social gathering.